



Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

JUL 3 2006

Ms. Karen Patterson, Chairperson
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
1103 Conger Drive
Aiken, South Carolina 29803

Dear Ms. Patterson:

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendation 234, Savannah River Site (SRS) Budget Participation

Thank you for the subject recommendation. My response to the two-part recommendation is as follows.

- 1. The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) institutes a consistent and effective budget participation process that involves stakeholders in the establishment of SRS funding priorities and levels for environmental actions and regulatory compliance. SR should submit the draft budget participation process to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) by July 25, 2006.**

As stated in previous responses to CAB recommendations, DOE continues to value the CAB's input into the Site's Environmental Management (EM) cleanup program and its contributions into the Site's planning processes. During the development of the initial Environmental Management Program Performance Management Plan (EM-PPMP), this office actively solicited the input of the CAB. As you recall, this plan established strategies and priorities for achieving the goals and objectives of the SR EM cleanup mission.

The CAB's input during the development of the EM-PPMP has significantly influenced Site budget requests annually submitted to DOE Headquarters (HQ). The annual SR EM budget request is developed consistent with the priorities and long-range goals and objectives of the EM-PPMP and supports the planned accomplishments identified therein. However, this office (per the requirements of the *Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11, Section 22.1, Confidentiality of Budget Deliberations*) can not share details of the annual budget request until after the President submits the request to Congress in February of each year.

As stated in past responses, DOE will continue to involve the CAB in its planning processes. Updates to the EM-PPMP will be shared with the CAB. DOE will also continue to provide budget and programmatic briefings to ensure open and effective communication regarding the Department's planned work scope and accomplishments as we continue to progress towards a successful completion of the Site's EM mission.

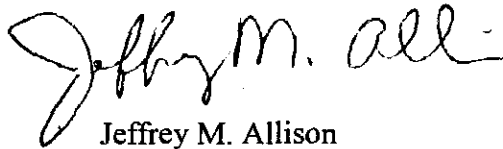
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2. **DOE-HQ ensure that a consistent and effective budget participation process is being used across the DOE complex, with early participation by all Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) under the DOE EM Charter, as amended.**

A joint letter dated June 19, 2006, from the SSAB Chairpersons, including the SRS CAB Chair, was sent to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM-1) requesting a response to similar budget process concerns. A reply to the letter will be forthcoming from EM-1, in the near future.

If you have any questions, please call me or have your staff contact Sarah Blanding at (803) 952-6564.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey M. Allison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey M. Allison
Manager

BD-06-0026